THE WORLD. MEXICAN EDITION PAGES 37 TO 44.

NEW YORK, SUNDAY, AUGUST 21, 1892.

MEXICO.

Grand Prize in Nature's Lottery.

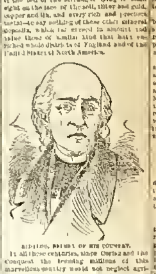
THE MYSTERIOUS LAND OF MARVELS AND INCALCULABLE WEALTH.

The Treasure Chest of the Nations.

RE-ELECTION OF PRESIDENT DIAZ.

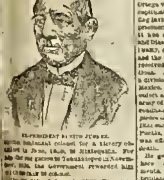
A COUNTRY OF SOLDIERS AND STATESMEN.

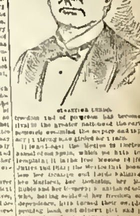
Her Position and Natural Advantages, Climate, &c.—History and Many Changes—The Sleeping Giant Awakened—Mines of Fabulous Richness—Millions of Acres of Untilled Fertile Soil—Broad Provinces of Virgin Forest—Magnificent and Imposing Public Buildings—Far-Reaching Railways—Rapidly Developing Commerce—The Opportunity of Centuries for Capitalists—Inducements to Settlers.

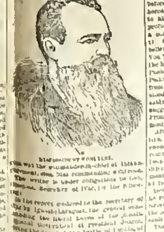


THE MEN OF MEXICO.

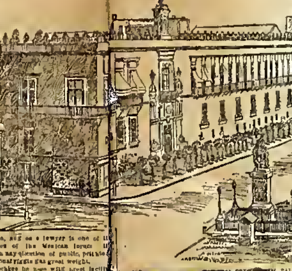
THE MEXICAN PRESIDENT AND THE MEMBERS OF HIS CABINET.



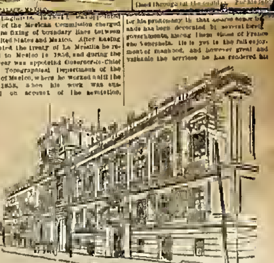




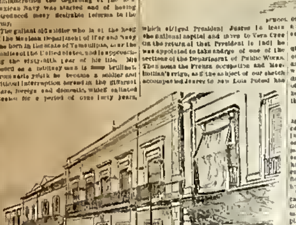
SAN FRANCISCO STREET, MEXICO, SHOWING HOTEL ITURBIDE.



FIFTH OF MAY STREET (CALLE DEL CINCO MAYO).



PALACE OF MINES.



Mexico with the money thus obtained, when that very same day General Mejia arrived in New York, was visited by the three young officers, and being acquainted with their intentions, gave them all their passage money, and sent them back to Mexico as commissioned officers. Then it was that instead of Cosio fighting for the American Union, as he came very near doing, he battled with gallantry for his own country until the French were banished from Mexico. The popularity of Gen. Cosio is unquestioned.

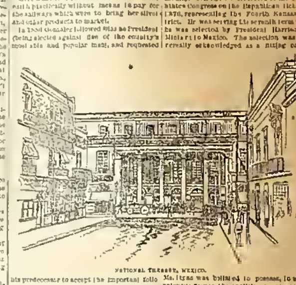
His choice to fill the new portfolio is most happy for the new Minister is a man of large intelligence, long experience in civil affairs and proved capacity. A man who has fought in revolutions, won distinction for gallantry in the war against the Empire, suffered imprisonment in France as an incident of that conflict, served twice as Governor of Zacatecas, been a Deputy and a Senator in the Federal Congress, and since [illegible] has held the most conspicuous place in the City Council of the City of Mexico, is surely qualified to hold an important Ministry in a great country. The new department is one recently formed from the division of the department of Fomento, or Encouragement, with some bureaus transferred from other departments. The new department is demanded by the increased business of the Government, and the supervision of Mexico's great network of telegraphs, railways and public highways and of the various important harbor improvement works in progress, &c., will completely absorb the new Minister's time, for in Mexico Cabinet Ministers are [illegible] of men.

Guadalajara, the Pearl of the West, the capital of the State of Jalisco, which gave to the world in 1810 the immortal Hidalgo, the Washington of Mexico, whose decree abolished slavery, was the natal city of Señor Benito Gomez Farias, ex-Secretary of the Treasury and the present Secretary of the Hacienda of the United States of Mexico.

MINISTER MATIAS ROMERO.

Sr. Matias Romero, the Minister of Mexico at Washington, was born at Oaxaca, the birthplace of so many of the noted men of the Republic of Mexico, Feb. 24, 1837.

[illegible]



NATIONAL TREASURY, MEXICO.

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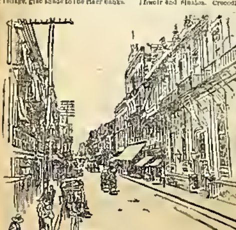
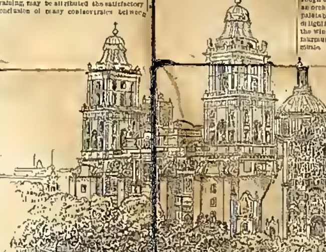


STREET OF THE HOLY SPIRIT, SHOWING NATIONAL BANK, MEXICO.

[illegible]

HON. THOMAS RYAN, UNITED STATES MINISTER.

[illegible]



THE CATHEDRAL, CITY OF MEXICO.

[illegible]

II.

NATURAL ADVANTAGES.

[illegible]

III.

HISTORICAL RESUME.

[illegible]

[illegible]

IV.

MINERAL WEALTH.

[illegible]

weighed over 150 pounds and brought $...

A vein of silver recently discovered by an Indian near Tambora, Sonora, assays $300 per ton.

Of all the northern districts of the Republic, El Cerro Colorado (Red Mountain), State of Chihuahua, is unquestionably the richest. It is being worked at present by a Mexican company. According to the engineer in charge, Mr. John Fleury, the base of the mountain is 1,500 metres long by 1,000 wide and 300 high, or approximately 100,000,000 cubic metres. The ore is generally in a free state, but at times it is iron pyrites, and scattered in irregular masses all through the mountain. The mass now being worked, after thorough examination, is found to yield 110 gold to the ton, and comprises about 50,000 tons of ore. Gold has been found on the mountain top, as well as on the slopes and base, hence it is believed that the mountain contains immense masses of rich ore not yet discovered. The system of reduction adopted and which has given excellent results is by direct amalgamation, using the Huntington mills. The enterprise of Cerro Colorado has a brilliant future, and if the company now working there will continue with the same energy and skill it is now manifesting, untold riches will be its reward.

Advices from twenty States of the Republic show that between September of last year and April of this there were registered 1,043 denouncements of mines, and during the same period there were signed twenty-four new contracts for prospecting and working mining zones. The amount deposited in guarantee of contracts of this character reaches $528,000. In virtue of the stipulations in the whole of the 200 such contracts remaining in force the concessionaires of mining zones are obliged to invest, for the encouragement of the mining industry within five years, the sum of $75,000,000.

MERCURY.

This metal has special interest in the Mexican mining industry, because of the process of treating silver ore generally adopted in the country, and there are yearly consumed over seven hundred tons of mercury, of which hardly half are produced in the country, the rest coming from California and Spain. However, there are in Mexico important mercury deposits, the only trouble being that the miners have been so busy working silver, with which they are familiar, that they have let the mercury remain unworked, and as a necessity. This metal is found in several States, particularly in Queretaro.

The most interesting deposits of mercury known in the Republic are those of Huitzuco and Concepcion, in the State of Guerrero, and that of Guadalcazar, in the State of San Luis Potosi. Mr. Antonio del Castillo, an engineer ... [illegible]

metal, which in the richest mines actually mined, those of the Island of Rasa, yield only 3 per cent. of metal. There is a company organized with a capital of $1,000,000 ready to work these mines.

[illegible]

ZINC ORE.

Calamine is found in Mexico, but is not yet exploited; zinc is found in quantities in the form of blende, accompanied by silver ore. Antimony and manganese, while found in several mines, are not yet worked.

Although there are no mines exclusively of zinc worked in the Republic, it is extracted in a few places, as in Cadereyta, in the State of Nuevo Leon, where silver lead mines are worked containing a great deal of zinc ore, which is separated and exported to Germany.

PLATINUM.

This noble metal is found in the State of Hidalgo, but in too small quantities to be exploited with Mexican methods and capital. A European company, with the necessary capital, would probably succeed. There are also found nickel and cadmium at several points in the country.

LEAD.

Lead, as necessary as mercury for treating silver ores, is found everywhere, above all in the form of galena, and in small quantities as carbonate. Metallic lead, which may be mined and from which silver is extracted, is found in enormous masses at Lomo de Toro (State of Hidalgo), and in several other quarters. Large deposits of silver lead ores are found at Sierra Mojada, State of Coahuila, and are being worked advantageously. Most of these ores go to the Monterey smelters.

REDUCTION OF ORES.

The barrel or Freiberg system is practised probably only in one place in the Republic.

In the Northern States lixiviation and pans predominate. The patio system, called also American amalgamation, is used and preferred in the Central States.

Besides the process of amalgamation mentioned the reduction of ores is carried on in Castilian furnaces, in crucibles and "galemes," but exclusively for rich silver ores.

The few following facts are taken from the reports of the Government Engineer and Inspector of Mines, Mr. Carlos Sellerier, respecting smelters for reducing silver ores in the country owned by private companies who have secured special concessions from the Federal Government. He says:

The "Mexican Metallurgical Company," controlling large capital, is about to finish a magnificent smelter near San Luis Potosi, consisting of ten furnaces provided with water jackets of modern construction and having a rectangular section 45 by 120 inches, capable of reducing on an average 70 tons per day. When these works are finished and in operation Mexico will have a smelter that will dispose of 700 tons of ore daily ... [illegible]

sites are very numerous and their exploitation is developed day by day.

MEXICAN ONYX.

There is no marble or other stone which has ever compared in beauty with the Tecali alabaster or Mexican onyx. For centuries before the conquest the Aztec artist and architect found in this marble their favorite material, which was so highly prized that they considered it too sacred for common uses, and so devoted it almost entirely to religious structures and decoration. Its Indian name, Tecali, is merely a corruption of the Aztec word Teocalli, a large mansion, a name which the Indians gave to their temple. In the days of Cortez altars and baptismal fonts were always made of it when it could be obtained. While the ordinary grades probably surpass in clearness and similar material, it is only in the light and dark green, the ivory cream, the brilliantly banded and the dark red varieties that there is found a full realization of this stone at its best. Under the touch of a skilled hand it becomes almost a gem. It owes its combination of colors to iron and manganese. It is as hard as marble, but susceptible of a higher polish. In the quarries it occurs in detached masses of from a few inches up to ten or twelve feet. The inferior qualities that lack color are sawed into very thin slabs, so thin as to be almost transparent, which are then colored and painted to make a fair counterfeit of the real Oriental onyx, after which the side that is painted is covered with ... [illegible]

... cent. of pure chloride of sodium. In the same State are found the equally important salt mines of Tepalo and Zamorcha. On the coasts of both oceans there are a great number of salt mines, those most worked being those of Yucatan, which furnish the salt necessary for the mines of the State of Hidalgo. The salt of Colombia contains 90 per cent. of chloride of sodium.

COAL.

Until 1881 Mexican geologists asserted that there was no mineral coal in that country, but investigators found deposits in various parts of the country, particularly in the State of Sonora, in which the percentage of carbon is so high as to cause Gen. Hoeckeraus to give it the name of "black gold." Government commissions found coal in Sonora, Michoacan, Vera Cruz, Guerrero, Oaxaca, Puebla and other States. There are also deposits in the north, in the States of Chihuahua and Coahuila. Coal is also found in the States of Guerrero, Tlaxcala and Hidalgo, where it is not worked. The most important of these deposits are those of Sonora, Puebla and Coahuila. The calorific effect of the coal of San Felipe in this last-named State is ... per cent. and coal from El Alamo ... per cent.

Despite the fact that the coal discovered is of unusual richness, the Mexicans have never worked the deposits. The first important purchase was made in Coahuila by Mr. C. P. Huntington. This coal contains 73 per cent. of fixed carbon and has a heating power ... [illegible]

[illegible]

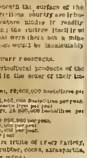
GOVERNOR'S PALACE, DURANGO.

[illegible]

V.

THE PRODUCTS OF THE SOIL.

[illegible]



CASTLE OF CHAPULTEPEC, CITY OF MEXICO.

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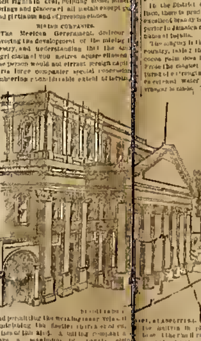

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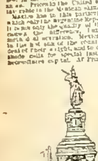

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VII.
MANUFACTURES.

As yet this great republic, prominent as she is in mining and agriculture, has not distinguished herself as a manufacturer, finding it pay her better to purchase the manufactures of other countries and pay for them in her almost limitless productions of the ground. But a change is coming over the spirit of her dream.

The principal manufactures in the country are, in the order of their importance:

Cotton, there being about 100 factories, producing nearly 1,000,000 pieces of goods, valued at [illegible].

[illegible]

POTTERY.

The third great manufacture of the country is pottery, which is carried on everywhere, particularly in the States of Guadalajara, Zacatecas, Guanajuato and Puebla. [illegible]

GLASSWARE.

While some little glassware is made, there is still an opening in this line, the raw materials for which are abundant. [illegible]

JEWELRY.

Curiously enough, there is in the whole country, despite the love of its inhabitants for jewelry and trinkets, but one manufactory in this line. Yet the silver and gold filigree work made in the country is sought after all over the world.

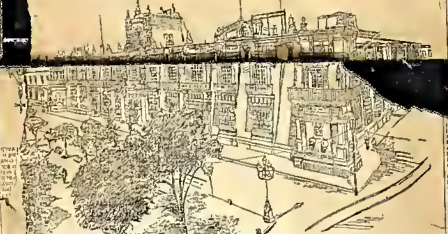
TOBACCO.

[illegible]

VIII.
FINANCE.

[illegible]

[illegible]



[illegible]

[illegible]

IX.
LANDS.

[illegible]

X.
INTER-COMMUNICATION.

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

XI. INTELLECTUAL PROGRESS.

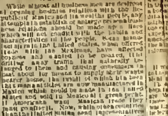
EDUCATION.

SCHOOL OF MINES

PENITENTIARY, GUADALAJARA.

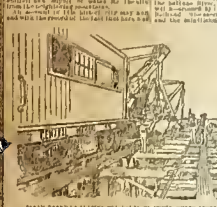
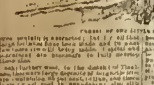
XII. BUSINESS.

TRADE WITH MEXICO.



XIII. GENERAL SUGGESTIONS.

WAGES.

COST OF LIVING.

XIV. SOME STATES AND TOWNS.